



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 200
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

NOVEMBER 08, 2005

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PUBLIC NOTICE OF NPDES PERMITS

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO STATE EPA'S INTENTION TO REISSUE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) DISCHARGE PERMITS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 402 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

PERMIT INFORMATION

The following proposed permits authorize the discharge of produced water from oil production wastewater treatment facilities, located within the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation. Produced oil, water, and gas are separated in tanks by gravity, heat and emulsion breaking chemicals. Water is discharged through settling ponds where the remaining oil is removed by floatation and skimming prior to discharge. These permit activities are covered under the effluent guideline for onshore oil and gas operation, subject to the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category (40 CFR Part 435). The Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category Subpart C - Onshore Subcategory establishes the effluent limitation for produced water from Onshore operations as "No Discharge" [40 CFR 435.32 (a)]. However, Subpart E - Agricultural and Wildlife Water Use Subcategory allows the discharge of produced water from facilities west of the 98th meridian for use in agricultural and wildlife propagation. The effluent guideline further requires "... that the produced water is of good enough quality to be used for wildlife or livestock watering or other agricultural uses and that the produced water is actually put to such use during periods of discharge."

These permits discharge to ephemeral streams. In addition to providing wildlife and stock watering opportunities, aquatic communities have developed in these ephemeral drainages, which are dependent upon the flow of this produced water. However, the quality of some of the produced water discharges does not meet EPA's National Water Quality Criteria for aquatic life protection. If restrictive limits needed to fully protect sensitive aquatic organisms are included in the permit, the permittee would likely cease discharge since, as a general matter, available treatment options to meet the National Water Quality Criteria are more expensive than the available non-discharge options. In an effluent-dependent situation such as this, where a discharge is believed to create an environmental benefit and it is possible that removal of the discharge would cause more environmental harm than leaving it in place, EPA is proposing to issue this permit with reopener clauses and additional effluent monitoring requirements to screen for toxic constituents and to develop data for future water quality-based limits, ensuring: 1) an appropriate level of protection for the created, effluent-dependent aquatic community; 2) downstream uses will be protected; and 3) the discharge will pose no health risk or hazard to humans, livestock or wildlife.



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1. **PERMITTEE NAME:** **Marathon Oil Company - Steamboat Butte Field**
MAILING ADDRESS: **1501 Stampede Avenue**
Cody WY 82414
TELEPHONE NUMBER: **(307) 527-2127**
NPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **WY-0033740**

The proposed permit is a renewal of the existing permit, which expired on June 30, 2004, and was administratively extended. The wastewater treatment facility is for an oil production facility located in SW 1/4 of Section 5 and the NW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 3N, Range 1W, (Latitude 44° 15' 29" Longitude 108° 54' 05" and Latitude 43° 15' 08" Longitude 108° 53' 40"), Fremont County, Wyoming,. This permit includes the Outfall 001 discharging from the north location (Latitude 44° 15' 29" Longitude 108° 54' 05"); and Outfall 002 discharging from the south location (Latitude 43° 15' 08" Longitude 108° 53' 40"),. The total volume of discharge is expected to be 2.1 million gallons per day (MGD). The discharge would flow into Mission Lake.

2. **PERMITTEE NAME:** **Marathon Oil Company - Maverick Springs**
MAILING ADDRESS: **1501 Stampede Avenue**
Cody WY 82414
TELEPHONE NUMBER: **(307) 527-2127**
NPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **WY-0000779**

The proposed permit is a renewal of the existing permit, which expired on March 31, 2002, and was administratively extended. The wastewater treatment facility is for an oil production facility located in SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 22, Township 6 North, Range 2 West in Fremont County. This permit includes the outfall 001 (latitude 43°29' 02" N, longitude 108° 58' 54" W). The total volume of discharge is expected to be 1.6 million gallons per day (MGD). The discharge would flow into an ephemeral tributary to Five Mile Creek.

3. **PERMITTEE NAME:** **Marathon Oil Company - Chatterton Battery**
MAILING ADDRESS: **1501 Stampede Avenue**
Cody WY 82414
TELEPHONE NUMBER: **(307) 527-2127**
NPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **WY-0000922**

The proposed permit is a renewal of the existing permit, which expired on March 31, 2002, and was administratively extended. The wastewater treatment facility is for an oil production facility located in EE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 16, Township 6 North, Range 2 West in Fremont County. This permit includes the outfall 001 (latitude 43° 30' 11" N, longitude 108° 59' 29" W). The total volume of discharge is expected to be 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The discharge would flow into an ephemeral tributary to Five Mile Creek.



4. **PERMITTEE NAME:** **Marathon Oil Company - Circle Ridge**
 MAILING ADDRESS: **1501 Stampede Avenue**
 Cody WY 82414
 TELEPHONE NUMBER: **(307) 527-2127**
 NPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **WY-0000949**

The proposed permit is a renewal of the existing permit, which expired on March 31, 2002, and was administratively extended. The wastewater treatment facility is for an oil production facility located in NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 6, Township 6 North, Range 2 West in Fremont County. This permit includes the outfall 001 (latitude 43°31' 22" N, longitude 109° 02' 46" W). The total volume of discharge is expected to be 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The discharge would flow into an ephemeral tributary of Coal Draw.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments are invited anytime prior to **December 8, 2005**. Comments may be directed to: Michael Reed, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, 999 18th Street, Suite 200, Denver, CO 80202-2466. All comments received prior to **December 8, 2005**, will be considered in the formulation of any final permit determinations.

If no objections are received within the specified thirty-day period, the Regional Administrator of EPA, will issue final determinations within sixty-days of the date of this notice. A public hearing will be held if response to this notice indicates significant public interest.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling Michael Reed at (303) 312-6132 or by writing to the address listed above. The complete application and related documents are available for review and reproduction at the address listed above.

Public Notice No.: WY-06-01

